

PATENT

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action dated February 7, 2006. Claims 1-43 were examined. The specification is objected to for including informalities. Claims 1-27, 29, 31-34, 38 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 28, 30, 35-37, and 39-42 are allowed. Claims 1-27, 29, 31-34, 38, and 43 are indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Finality of the Office Action

In the event that the amendments and remarks included herein do not put this case in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the finality of the Office action mailed February 7, 2006 be withdrawn because the Office action introduced a new ground of rejection for claim 1. This new ground of rejection was neither necessitated by Applicants' amendment of the claims, nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Specification

The specification is amended to correct the paragraphs beginning at page 4, line 3 and page 17, line 6 to be consistent with Figure 12.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 1-27, 29, 31-34, 38 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1, 29, and 43 are amended to put the claims in condition for allowance.

Claims 33 and 34 are amended to provide antecedent basis.

Claim 38 is amended to put the claim in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 28, 30, 35-37 and 39-42.

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Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-27, 29, 31-34, 38 and 43. Claims 1, 29, 33, 34, 38, and 43 are amended to put the case in condition for allowance.

Claims 19, 20, and 21 are amended to be consistent with amended claim 1 and to clarify the invention.

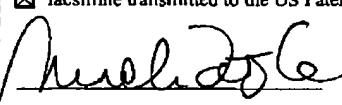
Claim 22 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 28 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 36 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Claim 42 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicants believe that all claims 1-43 are in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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